

#5/A 88  
1/25/03

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 8636.0001-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
)  
Gregory A. Hair *et al.* ) Prior Group Art Unit: 1656  
)  
Divisional of ) Examiner: T. STRZELECKA  
Serial No.: 09/721,975 )  
)  
Filed: November 9, 2001 )  
)  
For: NOVEL BONE MINERALIZATION )  
PROTEIN, DNA, VECTORS, )  
EXPRESSION SYSTEMS )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Before examining this application, please amend it at follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-48, and enter new claims 49-63:

--49. A method of inducing bone formation comprising transfecting osteogenic precursor cells with an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding LIM mineralization protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 22, or SEQ ID NO: 33.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the isolated nucleic acid molecule is in a vector.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the vector is an expression vector.

FOOT - 52998660

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